(b) if so, the date of their introduction and other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. New series of coins in the denominations of 50 paise, Re. 1 and Rs. 2 in Ferritic Stainless Steel (FSS) and Rs. 5 and new coin of Rs. 10 in bi-metallic have been designed by National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad. There is NIL indent of coins projected by the Reserve Bank of India for the year 2005-2006. The new series of coins are expected to be lifted by the Reserve Bank of India for circulation during 2006-2007.

Transfer of BALCO shares by Sterlite industries

2231. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during BALCO disinvestment agreement a condition was laid that the shares can neither be transferred nor converted directly or indirectly for the next three years; and

(b) if so, the detailed grounds on which Sterlite industry has transferred 51 per cent of its share to its private industry named Sterlite Copper Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) (A) Yes Sir.

(b) As informed by BALCO and M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. (SIIL), M/s SIIL continues to hold 51% of the shareholding of BALCO, which was sold to it by the Government.

FDI in retail sector

2232. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICRER and Department of Consumer Affairs recommended for allowing 49 per cent FDI in retail sector;

(b) whether they also suggested for gradual opening up of retail sector so as to enable domestic industry to adjust itself;